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FRANK L. HOOGSMANAGER

THURSDAYMAY 23, 1907

Strikes And Ruin

Strikes are a serious matter. They are to be avoided if possible, and to be regretted when they occur. How to prevent strikes has engaged the thought of many of the best men of our time. New Zealand claims to have solved the problem. No other country has as yet accepted New Zealand's solution of the problem. Apparently every other country prefers strikes to New Zealand's remedy.

Still, those who are predicting ruin to San Francisco because of her strikes might just as well spare their sympathy, and had a great deal better spare their doleful prophecies, that is if they care anything for their reputation as prophets. Strikes are an incident of industrial activity. Dead towns don't have strikes.

The first experience the American people ever had with strikes accompanied by great violence was in Pittsburgh in 1877. Pittsburgh and that region has been the scene of many strikes and much strike violence since then. The Homestead strikes and scenes of violence in 1892 were within a few miles of Pittsburgh. But Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh region have continued to grow and prosper in spite of strikes and violence.

Chicago has certainly had her share of strikes and strike violence. But Chicago has done tolerably well, thank you, in the matter of material prosperity. Omaha and Kansas City have had some severe strikes, with bloodshed and violence, especially in the meat packing industry. But Kansas City and Omaha keep right on growing, and the very industries in which the strikes occurred, expand and increase.

It isn't that strikes bring prosperity. But strikes are due to our imperfect industrial and economic organization, and they occur only where there is great industrial energy and development. They can occur only under such conditions. Hence strikes are proof of great industrial energy and development in a given locality. Strikes do not check this energy or development in any locality, for the instant such energy and development seek a new location, they create the conditions of strikes in the new locality there, so that nothing is gained by the change.

Many towns have suffered industrial decadence. But it is doubtful if a single one can be pointed to where strikes have caused the decadence. The industrial unrest in San Francisco and its accompanying violence, and the loss and inconvenience it involves, are greatly to be regretted. But don't let anyone so far ignore past experience as to predict ruin to San Francisco from it.

License Boundaries

The action of the License Commission in fixing boundaries within the City of Honolulu outside of which licenses will not be issued, will in all probability meet with general approval. And yet there is nothing in the law that suggests such procedure, and it is very doubtful if during the progress of the act through the legislature such a procedure was anticipated.

The act provides very specifically for the consent of property owners within certain distances of the proposed location of saloons, and there is provision also for protest of property owners and legal voters, and prohibition of the issuance of a license under certain conditions of protest. While the act was still a bill and was under discussion, the general assumption was that this provision was the one that would control as to the location of saloons, subject of course to the plenary discretion of the Board. It was thought that, generally speaking, a license for a saloon could be secured for any location where the necessary property consent was secured, and there was no protest of legal voters, unless of course, there should be some other conditions appealing to the Board to prevent the issuance of a license for any particular locality.

Nevertheless, the establishment of license limits or license boundaries, seems fully within the powers granted by the act. The License Board is not bound under the law to issue a single saloon license. It seems entirely reasonable therefore that under the law the Board may decide that it will not issue any, either at all, or within or without any specified locality. Under the law it would seem that the Board has prohibitive powers, and might, if it chosen, make Honolulu a prohibition town.

Wouldn't it jolt the community if it should wake up some fine morning and find that by reason of changes in the personnel of the Board, the Prohibitionists had secured control of it, and had decided to make this a dry town?

And yet the law contains, or seems to contain, within itself, the possibility of just such a thing. As was pointed out by the Star at the time it was proposed to introduce this principle of absolute discretion in the Board, and later after the Act came in force, the Board has unlimited and unrestrained power in the matter. Its whim or its caprice becomes the law of the land.

The New Tax Commission

The Tax Commission appointed under the authority of the last legislature has already organized and is getting ready for work. The legislature held practically every tax and revenue measure or suggestion that came before it, in abeyance, because of the plan for a tax commission which should undertake the study of the whole subject and report a consistent, and it is hoped, a model system of revenue and taxation.

Perhaps no better idea of the Tax Commission's own thought as to the scope and purpose of its appointment can be given than may be drawn from a circular which it has just issued and sent out very extensively to banks and bankers, professional and business men, publicists and tax-payers, asking them to present any views or suggestions they may have. The circular is signed by the secretary of the Commission A. F. Judd and is as follows:

The Tax Commission is instructed to "thoroughly examine and investigate the tax laws of this Territory, and to consider their legal operation and effect, the manner of their enforcement, and general adaptability with respect to existing conditions, and to consider ways and means for revision and improvement of said laws as they shall deem necessary or advisable."

The Commission solicits your assistance in their work and requests

JACK LONDON

San Francisco Town Talk, which has never been friendly to Jack London, and particularly, has never been friendly to his economic or sociological theories. In its issue of May 11, thus greets the first chapters of one of London's latest serials:

A SPECIMEN OF LONDON'S PHILOSOPHY.

I have often wondered just what brand of socialism Jack London advocates. His "My Life in the Underworld—a Confession," the first installment of which appears in an Eastern magazine, throws light upon the subject, indicating that London's economic theories are inspired by a violent aversion to manual toil. In the article mentioned he gives some pages from his life as a tramp. We have all known that at one stage of his career London was a tramp, but it has been sort of vaguely and politely supposed that he was a student tramp, associating with nobles in order to make a study of them. According to his confession he was merely a tramp of the very ordinary kind—one of the back-door whiners who beg a hand-out, and who are kicked by brute householders and bitten by dogs trained to discern unworth. London evidently feels that in the following passage he scores eloquently against the well-to-do: "The very poor constitute the last sure recourse of the hungry tramp. The very poor can always be depended upon. They never turn away the hungry. Time and again all over the United States have I been refused food at the big house on the hill; and always have I received food at the little shack down by the creek or the marsh, and its tired-faced mother broken with labor. Oh! you charity mongers, go to the poor and learn, for the poor alone are charitable." All of which is of some significance inasmuch as it emanates from an apostle of Socialism, a leading purveyor of the claptrap which appeals to the illiterates of the minor European states that have come to this country to assist in the redemption of the Republic. If food were never to be obtained at the big house on the hill, the professional tramp would not waste time making application there. But we know he prefers the big house on the hill to the shack by the marsh. He is very often refused at the big house on the hill, and not always because the occupants are uncharitable, but because suspicious that heet fear persuade them that it is dangerous to indulge their sympathies. Unquestionably it is better to give many times to the unworthy than ever to refuse food to the hungry, but sticking to the principle of this theory is somewhat hazardous. To discriminate occasionally is not half so contemptible as reducing the slender fare of the tired-faced mother broken with labor in the little shack down by the creek.

JACK FOR GOVERNOR.

A Setta, published in Hilo, has the following:

"There is no question now, and there has been none for a long time past, in our mind, that Secretary of the Territory Atkinson should be the logical successor to Governor Carter in the Executive chair. With Mr. Atkinson as Governor of this Territory all interests alike would have a fair and impartial deal. Mr. Atkinson is not tied to the great corporate interests which, in Hawaii as elsewhere in the United States, aim at getting everything in sight for the few. His attitude in the Americanization scheme of Hawaii is patterned after a la Roosevelt. As a promoter of a landed population his views are well known. Of all the available timber out of which our president might decide on for the next governor the present Secretary of the Territory is certainly the choice of the people of Hawaii."

The Altona inventor who has a plan for making ashes burn better than coal is the man for the job of kindling Fairbanks enthusiasm. —New York Evening Post.

Fine Job Printing, Star Office.

you, if such be your pleasure, at your early convenience to address them in writing, setting forth your views:

1. As to any change which might be made to the common advantage in the present laws of Hawaii concerning taxation or in the administration or enforcement of such laws.
2. Your reasons why such change should be made.
3. Any improvement in the tax laws which might be regarded as more than a change of present laws, with such suggestions framed appropriately as additions to or substitutes for the present laws.

The idea of entertaining the Congressional party with a meal cooked over the hot cracks in the crater of Kilauea originated with George F. Henshall.

What was the matter with those Laupahoehoe rigs?

Schmitz seems to dread going to trial as much as Ruff did.

The vacant lot has arisen to interfere to some extent with the "clean the sidewalk in front of your own home" program. The question has been asked. What is to be done with the vacant

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POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

(From the Chicago Daily News)

Everybody knows what to do with the things they haven't got.

If man could discover why a woman is a mystery she wouldn't be.

Keep your eye on a friend after his first attempt to make a touch.

Almost any pretty girl can bring out the stillness in a man's nature.

Fools give away good advice; wise men keep theirs for home consumption.

Haven't you often wished your running expenses would slow down to a walk?

At the age of 17 a girl knows more about love than a man ever will know.

The desire to be good is universal—but that's as near as some people ever get.

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